

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A navigation system, comprising:
 an input means for inputting information necessary to conduct a
 vicinity search including at least information regarding a reference position;
 a display means for displaying a search result;
 an information storage means for storing at least the vicinity search
 data;
 a search means for making the vicinity search on the basis of data
 stored in said information storage means and information input by said input means,
 wherein said vicinity search data include at least area information, and said search
 means conduct the vicinity search on the basis of area information to which the
 register points belong and inputs the search result to said display means.

2. The navigation system according to claim 1, wherein said area
 information is country information, district information, prefectural information or
 municipality information.

3. A navigation system, comprising:
 an input means for inputting information for searching register points
 within an area or block;
 a display means for displaying a search result;
 an information storage means for storing data necessary for at least a
 register point search; and
 a search means for searching for register points within the area,
 wherein said register point search data within the area include category information
 with flags representing the presence or absence of register point data and said search
 means search for register point data by referring to said flags.

4. The navigation system according to claim 3, wherein said register point
 data search within an area is a vicinity search and said search means search for
 register point data on the basis of information regarding a reference position input by
 said input means.

5. The navigation system according to claim 3, wherein said register point
 data are divided into an area or block and controlled such that category information is
 stored on the basis of each area or block and flags representing the presence or
 absence of register point data are given as category information of each area or block.

6. The navigation system according to claim 3, wherein register point data are controlled by each category, and flags representing the presence or absence of register point data for an area or block are given in each category.

7. The navigation system according to claim 3, wherein a data structure of category information is hierarchical and flags representing the presence or absence of register point data in categories of the lower hierarchy, are given to a category of the upper hierarchy.

8. The navigation system according to claim 4, wherein a data structure of category information is hierarchical and flags representing the presence or absence of register point data in categories of the lower hierarchy, are given to a category of the upper hierarchy.

9. The navigation system according to claim 5, wherein a data structure of category information is hierarchical and flags representing the presence or absence of register point data in categories of the lower hierarchy, are given to a category of the upper hierarchy.

10. The navigation system according to claim 6, wherein a data structure of category information is hierarchical and flags representing the presence or absence of register point data in categories of the lower hierarchy, are given to a category of the upper hierarchy.

11. The navigation system according to claim 3, wherein said register point search within an area is an area designated search, and said search means conducts a search for register point data on the basis of information regarding the area input by said input means.

12. The navigation system according to claim 11, wherein said area is a country or an administrative unit.

13. A memory medium for a navigational system comprising a program for conducting a vicinity search on the basis of input data and for displaying a search result, wherein the said vicinity search searches for area information on the basis of the input reference position of the vicinity search.

14. A memory medium for a navigational system, comprising:
a program for searching for register points within an area on the basis of input data and for displaying a search result, wherein the searching of said register

points within the area refers to flags given to category information, representing whether register point data are present or absent in an area.

15 A memory medium for a navigational system that searches for register
point data within a predetermined area by category and stores flags representing
5 whether register point are present or absent on the basis of each category.

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